

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 8-14 and 17-19 are all the claims pending in the present application.

Claims 1 and 3 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Flick (U.S. Patent No. 6,140,939) in view of Scott *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,484,260), hereinafter referred to as Scott. Claims 4, 5, 8-14, and 17-19 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Flick in view of Scott as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Hsu *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,100,811), hereinafter referred to as Hsu.

§103(a) Rejections (Flick / Scott) - Claims 1 and 3

Claim 1 and 3 are rejected for the reasons stated on pages 5-8 of the present Office Action. The Examiner also adds a new argument in the *Response to Arguments* section of the present Office Action, on pages 2-4. In the *Response to Arguments* section of the Office Action, the Examiner essentially quotes from much of the text of Flick as well as some of Scott. Essentially, Applicant traverses the rejections of claims 1 and 3, at least for the same reasons set forth in the Amendment dated September 5, 2003. That is, Applicant maintains that Flick does not disclose a transmitter for transmitting and storing, *inter alia*, a system-specific identifier, as described in claim 1. Applicant also maintains that Scott does not disclose a transmitter for transmitting and storing, *inter alia*, fingerprint information, as described in claim 1. In fact, Applicant maintains that Scott's approach explicitly teaches away from a transmitter transmitting and storing fingerprint information. Yet further, Applicant submits that one skilled in the art would not have combined the teachings of Flick and Scott in order to increase the security of the portable remote control identification vehicle system in order to avoid unauthorized users, as alleged by the Examiner, as the applied references explicitly teach away

from one another and/or take different approaches to a similar problem. Thus, at least based on the foregoing and the arguments submitted in the previous Amendment, Applicant submits that claims 1 and 3 are patentably distinguishable over the applied references.

Also, Applicant submits the following explanation of the benefits of the claimed invention in an effort to distinguish the present invention over the applied references. In the vehicle key system of the present application, the inclusion of fingerprint information and ID information (identifier) specific to a transmitter can be used to verify whether a user who is now using the transmitter is a previously authorized user or not, and the provision of the three options of transmitting : (1) only fingerprint information;(2) only system-specific ID information; or (3) both of them (see claim 1), for verification, can be done with the object of increasing security and reconciling high security and improved convenience.

As an example of the convenience of the present invention, consider a circumstance where a user gives his vehicle to a valet driver at a hotel, or where the user places his vehicle under control of a clerk at a dealership. In a different key system only having the option of verifying an identity with fingerprint information, once an engine of user's vehicle is stopped, the valet driver might not be able to restart the user's vehicle because her fingerprint information is not registered. By contrast, in the vehicle key system of the present application, a user is entitled to arbitrarily select different data that can be used for verification purposes; thus, appropriate data can be selected by the user to allow for a valet driver to use her vehicle, thus avoiding the inconvenience described above.

§103(a) Rejections (Flick / Scott / Hsu) - Claims 4, 5, 8-14, and 17-19

Claims 4, 5, 8-14, and 17-19 are rejected for the reasons set forth on pages 8-11 of the present Office Action. Applicant maintains the previously submitted arguments with respect to these rejections.

With respect to dependent claims 4, 5, 8-14, and 17-19, Applicant submits that these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their indirect or direct dependencies from independent claim 1. Hsu does not make up for the deficiencies of Flick and Scott.

Further, with respect to claims 4, 5, 8-14, and 17-19, Applicant maintains that Hsu fails to teach or suggest the claimed identifier specific to the transmitter. That is, the Examiner appears to believe that the ‘secret combination’ as discussed in Hsu corresponds to the claimed identifier, however Applicant maintains that the ‘secret combination’ is nothing more than a “personal password” that is dialed at the ignition switch by the user, which can be changed by a user. *See also previous Amendment.* Further, Applicant maintains that Flick teaches away from using codes in a vehicle system, therefore, Flick teaches away from that which is described in Hsu. Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that the present invention, as recited in claims 4, 5, 8-14, 17-19, are patentably distinguishable over the applied references.

Finally, Applicant adds new claim 20 to round out the scope of protection solicited for the present invention. Applicant submits that new claim 20 is patentable at least for reasons similar to those set forth in claim 1. New claim 20 differs from claim 1 in that it recites that only “both the fingerprint information and the system-specific identifier” are transmitted from the transmitting means.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. APPLN. NO.: 09/649,097

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q60517

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

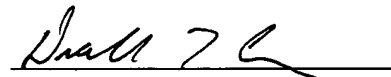
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